

March 28, 2022

FLORIDA: March temperatures were on average .2 degrees to 11.2 degrees warmer than historical values depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from little rain in multiple locations to 14.3 inches in Gainesville in Alachua County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 22.62 percent of the state was experiencing moderate drought conditions while 32.42 percent was experiencing abnormally dry conditions. A middle month frost caused some damage to berries, watermelon, and planted corn in the northern part of the state. Late cool weather and frost caused pasture conditions to remain in poor to good condition throughout the state. Cattle remained in mostly good condition due to supplemental hay feeding. Winter grazing was unsuccessful in many counties due to temperatures and the dry conditions. Sugarcane harvest continued closer to completion in the southern part of the peninsula. Field preparations continued for spring plantings. Corn planting was underway in most counties. Strawberry harvest continued closer to completion and should conclude in the next few weeks. Crops marketed included tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet corn, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, bitter melons, herbs, and avocados. Grove activities included mowing, fertilizing, maintenance hedging, spraying and general grove maintenance. Citrus fruit harvested included white and red grapefruit, early and midseason oranges, tangerines, and tangelos.